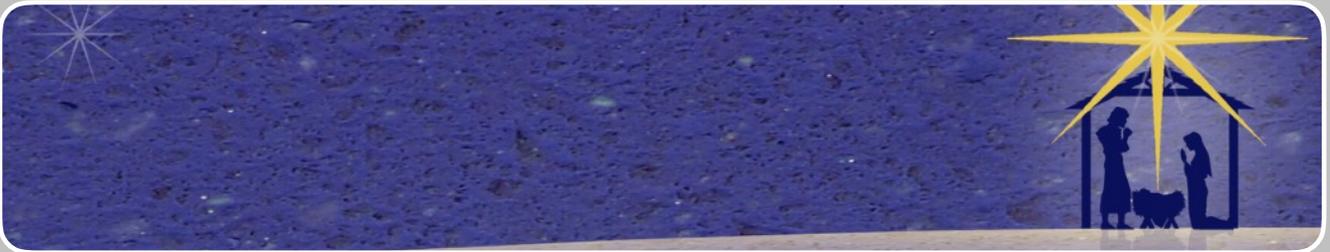


NEWS FROM FIRST



UNTO US

Such simple words: unto us. In Hebrew, it's an even simpler phrase, just one word, and it looks like this: לָנוּ which is pronounced "lay-nu." It means 'unto us,' and we find it in the Old Testament book written by the prophet, Isaiah.

Unto us a child is born.

Unto us a son is given.

And his name shall be called

Wonderful Counselor,

Almighty God, Everlasting

Father, Prince of Peace.

- Isaiah 9:6

These words are 2,500 years old, and probably like all the people before me, I have to stop and pinch myself to catch its meaning. **Unto us, unto me** - a child is born. Christ came into the world **for me**. When Christ

arrived in the manger surrounded by shepherds and wise men, in the mysterious ways of faith, **I was there, too**, in Bethlehem. **Unto me, unto you** a child is born. It's funny that the words are in this order (as they are in Hebrew). It's as if the writer needed to emphasize that it's **unto you!** It's **unto us!** It's almost like the writer is responding to someone who said, "A child is born. A son is given." Then the writer shouts, "No!!!! A child isn't simply born. **Unto us, a child is born! Unto us, a son is given!!!!**"

In the recent stand-up comedy special, Seth Meyers tells about his wife giving birth in the lobby of their apartment building.

Thoughts & Prayers



Pat Anderson
Jane Corbin
Betty Lambert
Lorrie Schmit

Pennington Square,
Monticello

- Lorraine Haag
- Naomi Bender
- Betty Wolken

Monticello Nursing &
Rehab, Monticello

- Ronald Behrends
- Laura Eiben
- Marie Hein
- Barb Null
- Mary Jane Steiner

Ridgeview Asst. Living,
Cedar Rapids

- Phyllis Lumpa

Later at the hospital, he had to fill out some paperwork. Mother's name? He wrote the name of his wife. Mother's phone number? He wrote down her phone number. Then it said, Father's name. And he wrote down the name of his father-in-law. Then it said, Father's phone number. Seth shouted, "How do I know my father-in-law's phone number?!!!" One of the EMTs said, "I think that means you. You're the father."

This Advent and Christmas, let's remember that Christ was born of Mary, yes. And whosoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life. And Christ was the word made flesh who dwelt among us in truth and grace.

But sometimes, with all of the big words and grand concerts of Christmas music, we can forget the simple, absurd truth of Christmas. We're the shepherds abiding in the fields, and angels are all around us singing:

Unto **you**, a child is born.



Confirmation:

- **Tuesday, December 10th**
- **Wednesday, December 18th**

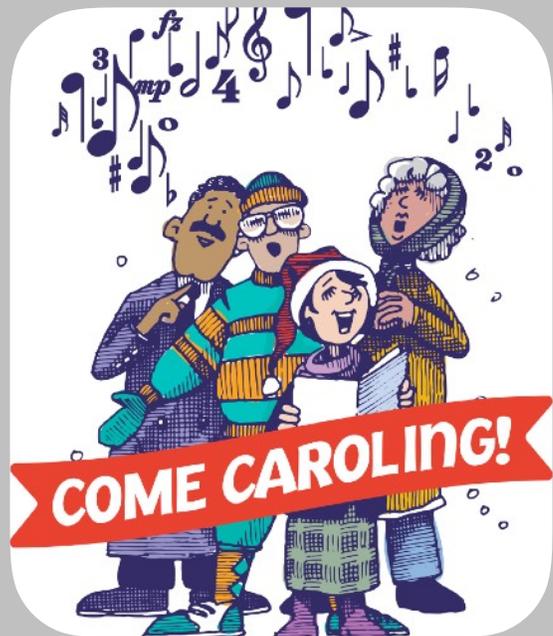
The confirmation class will meet on **Tuesday, December 10th at 6:00 p.m.** They will meet again on **Wednesday, December 18 at 5:30 p.m.** for caroling, with pizza, cookies and bars to refuel before they finish off the evening practicing their readings for Christmas Eve worship service. See you there!

Rebecca Circle

The Rebecca Circle women's group will meet for their annual Christmas lunch celebration at the Pizza Ranch on Wednesday, December 11 at 11:30 a.m.

A-CAROLING WE WILL GO!

Let us raise our voices and go Christmas caroling! On **Wednesday, December 18th**, we will meet at the church at **5:30 p.m.** We will be going to Pennington Square Assisted Living, arriving at 5:45 p.m., and then go to Monticello Nursing and Rehab Center at 6:00 p.m. Then we have 9 homes, at the present time, to visit. If anyone knows of others, please let us know. Bring your voices and your appetite, as pizza, bars and cookies will be furnished once again. Let's hope for good weather. If you have any questions, call Larry Lamont, home phone 563-926-2913 or cell 563-212-4361, or Lisa Hosford at 319-480-2005. See you there!



REMINDER: The Sunday school Christmas program will take place during **Sunday worship service on December 8.** We can't wait to see the youth shine!

DEACONS UPDATE



• Please stay after worship to join the Deacons in *decorating* for Advent and Christmas **Sunday, December 1.**



• It's the time of year when we contribute to the *Christmas Care and Share Program*. You can choose a tag, then please put your name and phone number on one tag and return the other tag with your gift. Gifts may be unwrapped or in gift bags. Deacons have gift bags available. If you prefer not to shop, Deacons are also accepting cash donations and we'll do the shopping for you! Gifts need to be brought to church by **noon on Dec. 11.** Let's make this a special Christmas for needy children!



• The Deacons will hold their *cookie sale* on **Sunday, December 8.** You can purchase plates of 6 cookies/ \$3.00.

Thank you to our December worship service helpers!

Scripture Readers:

1 - Dan Saunders 8 - Suzy Gilkerson
 15 - OPEN 22 - OPEN
 24 ~ Stacey Takes 29 - OPEN
 ~ OPEN
 ~ OPEN
 ~ OPEN

Greeters:

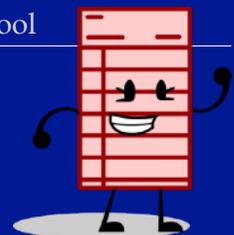
1 - OPEN 8 - OPEN
 15 - OPEN 22 - OPEN
 24 - Fellingner Family 29 - OPEN

thank you!

We will email the readings to you earlier in the week in the event you wish to practice.

ATTENDANCE:

Week of:	Worship	Sunday School
Oct 27	40	5
Nov 3	58	16
Nov 10	58	13
Nov 17	43	20



SESSION MINUTES - APPROVED (OCTOBER)

Agenda for this meeting MSC

Minutes from Sept MSC

Clerks Report:

Shared info about gun violence letter from Presbyterian Mission. Shared that Fairfield church had prayed specifically for a Sunday in September.

Bruce Fueling is approved to use the roasters for Monticello Community Thanksgiving dinner.

Brooklyn Marie Bone was baptized Sunday Oct 6th.

Joan McKim served as the deacon and Jim Bone the elder for the baptism.

Wedding coming up June 27th Alexis Masse and Mike Corbin MSC

Communion for October 6th. Served by Stacey Takes, Jim Anderson, Curt & Pam Mayo.

Old second printer was moved from office to Sunday school room to teachers have access at all times.

Worship attendance: Sept 1st (36) 8th (66) 15th (49) 22nd (50) 29th (40)

Sunday School Sept 1st (NA) 8th (19) 15th (20) 22nd (13) 29th (40)

Presbytery Report:

Last meeting Sept 21 and we did not have a representative there.

Pastors Report:

Emory told us how she is participating in Rebecca Circle, TiLT, Counseling, Confirmation, helping the student pastor at Scotch Grove, and is spending lots more time on food pantry.

Church Outreach Projects & Committees:

Food at First - Jo got a \$25 Casey's gift card donated for next week (16th). Jo gave us the profit and loss sheet for Food at First. Jo is to make the account for Food at First into an account under the church with her having check writing and deposit rights MSC.

Montreat - Peg gave us the financials from Montreat. Aug 2-8 Montreat this year. Dan Saunders will take lead contacting Montreat and reserving space for 10. Dan heading up Montreat and Stacey will help after first of the year. Voted to pay the deposit of the Montreat registration per person for \$100 per person for 10 people.

Change or Open Checking Accounts: TiLT (Lindsey Ryan), Food at First (Jo Zirklebach) and Montreat (Dan Saunders) under Church ministry at the bank MSC.

Pennington Square/Monticello Rehab - on hold as they want to watch football on Sat nights right now. Emory will start back up when football season is over.

Fundraisers - next one approved as of now is Memorial Day Breakfast.

Visitor:

Ann Kopperhaver CPA - She met with us and gave us many ideas on how to audit ourselves vs paying someone to do it. This would help us meet the requirement of the Presbytery for annual review. Stacey took notes of all the ideas and recorded in separate document.

Session Committee Reports:

Deacons Report - Stacey is the new session rep, and they were meeting at same time as us. They were working on the Care & Share tree. They are meeting with Stacey in a week (Oct 16th) to help finalizing the church directory.

Building Committee - Hanging a whiteboard out in hall by office to write building concerns.

Christian Ed - 3rd graders got their bibles

Finance Committee/Corp Trust - given monthly report

Funerals - Pam Recker resigned as funeral dinner organizer effective immediately.

Old Business:

Emory has her laptop and it is working out well.

Facebook - will have an official site up and going soon.

New Locks - Keys that cant be copied have been donated to change locks if needed.

Clean up days. Decided to do in the early spring (March). Make a list of wish list items and let volunteer sign up to do the one they prefer.

New Business:

Cindy Plummer has volunteered to be our clerk starting Jan 2020.

Decided to name our church letter "News from First"

Mackenzie get subscriptions for Monticello, Cascade and Anamosa local papers MCP. She plans to create a brag board in the church.

Caring.com asked to have a link put on our webpage. We decided not to promote any one place on our website MSC.

Church Budget workshop with session members is scheduled for Monday, Nov 4th at 6 p.m.



First Presbyterian Church Members,

Thank you for awarding me the Dale Streif Memorial Scholarship Award. As I graduate in December, I have spent most of my time this semester applying to graduate programs for a Master of Public Health. This scholarship will help pay for my application costs. Best,

Traci Plummer



Thank you to FPC for the use of the fellowship hall to sort food during the annual Boy Scouts Scouting for Food food drive. Not only did they pick up **1,731 POUNDS** of food, but they helped sort and shelve, too! Thank you to all that donated and helped!

Directory Update

The directory has been ordered! They are set to be delivered the first part of December and will be available for pick up on Sundays before and after worship or in the church office during office hours Monday thru Friday, 8 a.m. until 12 noon. You can watch our Facebook page @MonticelloFPC for an update when they arrive.

A very special thank you to Stacey Takes for taking the lead on this project and spending so much of her time and working hard to complete this project. Thank you, Stacey!

Welcome to God's Family, Madalyn Michelle Kelchen

On Sunday, November 10, Madalyn Michelle Kelchen, daughter of Allison and Josh Kelchen, was baptized into God's family here at First Presbyterian Church. Madalyn's sponsors were Nicole Reyner and Travis Kelchen. Welcome Madalyn, Michelle Kelchen!



Christmas Eve

Join us for Christmas Eve worship service
on Tuesday, December 24 at 6:00 p.m.

Adult Education for December

Please note that the Adult Sunday School education class on Sunday mornings **will not meet Sunday, December 1st OR December 8th**. Pastor Emory will be helping the Sunday School classes as they prepare for their Sunday School Christmas Program on Sunday, December 8th during church. Classes will be held on December 15th and 22nd and will continue with the theme **Improving Relationships with the Bible**.

TiLT Dates for the Holidays

TiLT will take a winter break for the following four weeks:

- December 17
- December 24
- December 31
- January 7

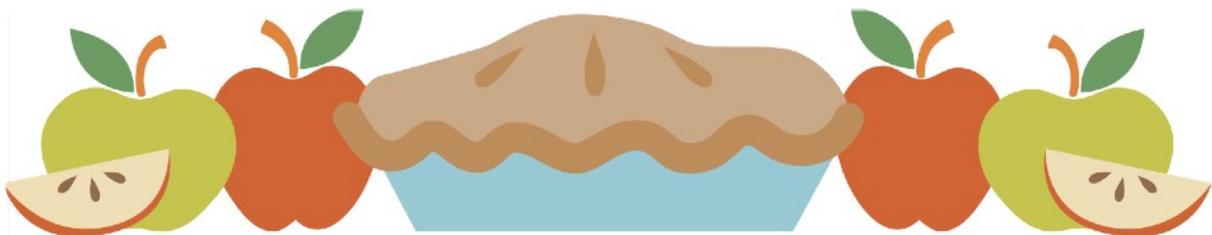
We look forward to seeing you when meetings resume January 14. Enjoy the holidays!

PRESBYTERIAN PIE SERVICE

The Presbyterian Pie Service made it through thanksgiving with over *300 pies* out the door! 😊 But they're revving back up for the next round of holidays. Get your orders in early! They will be in the kitchen prepping and baking on:

- December 2
- December 9
- December 16

Stick a pie or two in your freezer for unexpected company or dinner invitations. Pies can go from your freezer to warm from the oven in just over an hour. Also, consider giving a pie gift certificate, or a few as a Pie-A-Month type gift. To place your order, contact the church office at 319-465-3393, Pam Recker at 319-480-7700 or online at <https://www.fpcmonticello.org/pie-ladies/>.



CHURCH OFFICE

The church office will be closed **Tuesday, December 24 through Wednesday, January 1** in observance of the Christmas holiday. If you have anything you would like submitted to the January newsletter, please note the deadline of *December 15* to ensure it is completed before the holiday closure.

PASTOR LEAVE

Pastor Emory will be on leave **Thursday, December 26 through Wednesday, January 1**. If you have an emergency, please contact Larry Lamont, cell 563-212-4361 or home phone 563-926-2913.

Have a blessed holiday.

FOOD PANTRY

A reminder as the cold weather and holidays approach: the Monticello Food Pantry will be closed if the Monticello Schools are closed. With that in mind, the Monticello Food Pantry will observe the following days for the holidays:

CLOSED:

- **Wednesday, December 25**
- **Friday, December 27**
- **Wednesday, January 1**



Pastor Emory Gillespie
cell 319-481-7572
emorygillespie@yahoo.com

Office Administrator
Mackenzie Kahler
office 319-465-3393
office@fpcm Monticello.org
office hours: M-F, 8 a.m.-noon

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

211 W 1st St
Monticello, IA 52310
Worship -Sundays 10:00 a.m.



PUZZLE

Symbols of the *season*

Many traditional decorations convey the meaning of Christmas.

Directions: Use the picture clues to the right to complete the words. Then write the boxed letters in order to complete 2 Corinthians 9:15, NIV.



shepherd's staff _ _ _ _ _

tree that keeps its leaves _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

shines to lead the way _ _ _ _

green for eternal life, _ _ _ _ &
red for Jesus' blood _ _ _ _ _ _

sounds to announce _ _ _ _
good news

has no beginning or end _ _ _ _ _

Th ks b to od fo is
indesc ba le gif !

2 CORINTHIANS 9:15, NIV

Answer: candy cane, evergreen, star, holly & berries, bell, wreath,
Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! 2 Corinthians 9:15, NIV